

THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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Coverstone goes public, charts a new course

Former Academic Dean to take up Metro Charter School post

By Karthik Sastry
Staff Writer

After fourteen years on the Hill, Alan Coverstone has decided to take on a new role as the Executive Director of Charter Schools in Nashville. *The Bell Ringer* sat down with Mr. Coverstone for a chat about his new position and what MBA has meant to him.

"The excellence at MBA is a model that I hope can be brought to everyone."

Bell Ringer: Why the new career move?

Alan Coverstone: "I have always been passionate about public education, and this was an excellent opportunity to further this goal for Nashville."

BR: What are charter schools, and what will your job be?

AC: "Charter schools are independent schools that are publicly funded but operate with their own guidelines and principles. My job is about organizing, evaluating, and assessing charter schools while also coordinating a strategic vision for the district."

BR: What is your long term vision?

AC: "I hope that we can really use

charter schools to help provide quality education for every student in Nashville. If I can look back ten years down the road and say there are ten really excellent charter schools operating in Nashville that we didn't have before, I'll feel really good about it. You could never just say that charters are going to solve all the issues with public education, but I think that, together with other options, they could be one piece of the educational puzzle."

BR: How has MBA influenced you?

AC: "There just aren't words to describe how much being a part of MBA's tradition has shaped who I am. I love MBA's motto, 'Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete.' I think having that kind of clear focus, along with the high quality teachers, hardworking students, and dedicated parents, makes a school great. The excellence at MBA is a model that I hope can be brought to everyone."

BR: What will you miss the most about MBA?

AC: "Hopefully nothing! I'll always be proud and happy to be associated with MBA in any way possible. I'll still be going to football games, and I still plan to play basketball with the other faculty members."

BR: What were your most memorable moments at MBA?

AC: "Wow, there are so many I can hardly list them. I just loved coming here everyday. The best moments were the daily interactions with the students. Winning the debate national championships in 1999 and 2005 have got to be two of my favorites. Fourteen years is a long time, and I have a lot of great memories."



Former Dean Alan Coverstone will pursue his passion for public education.

Replacing Mr. Coverstone as Academic Dean will be Dr. Rick Seay, as Mr. Andy Gaither steps into Dr. Seay's former role as head of the Foreign Language Department. *The Bell Ringer* wishes all three of them good luck in their new positions.

Runners in conflict with horses on park trails

By Ryan Hill
Features Editor

Many of you surely have spent some quality time in the beautiful Percy and Edwin Warner Parks, enjoying over 2500 acres of pristine forest. If you haven't been there, I would encourage you to journey on over sometime soon, as they are exceptionally pleasant in the summer and fall. Whether you're a runner or hiker, driver or biker, there are miles of roads and trails to explore that will take you on winding trips through the trees that seem too wonderful

to be only nine miles from downtown Nashville.

Perhaps the source of greatest controversy within these parks is the use of the Percy Warner horse trails. After the establishment of the parks in 1927, these trails were the first ones blazed and were originally multipurpose routes. They are the work of the Works Progress Administration—one of Roosevelt's many federal programs intended to create jobs during the Great Depression—as are some of the

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A trail winds off into Percy Warner Park. Who has the right to its use?

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Art. Antiques. Flowers

Beyond the Hill: TN funds Iran's nuclear program

By Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Editorialist

Every Tennessee state employee (firemen, policemen, teachers down the road at Hume Fogg, and the like) has a retirement pension plan set up by the Tennessee state government. This sum of money is invested in the stock market to increase the savings of the state's hard-working labor force. That's awesome. Unfortunately, a lot of this money is invested in companies that directly prop up the Iranian regime (and, subsequently, its dangerous nuclear program) by investing in Iran's oil wealth. That's not so awesome.

Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System documents show a list of international companies in which pension funds are invested. As of June 30th, 2009, the state government invests money in the following companies: Repsol YPF, ENI SPA, Royal Dutch Shell, Total SA, Statoilhydro, Inpex Corp, and Alstom. All of these companies invest directly into Iranian energy and oil.

Unlike in America, where oil is controlled mostly privately, in Iran the government has a monopoly on oil. When companies, like the ones supported by the Tennessee government, invest in

Iranian oil, they are investing in the Iranian regime—the same regime that has called for the destruction of Israel and the United States; the same regime that has prolonged instability within Iraq by heightening sectarian tensions; the same regime that, according to Israeli and American intelligence, has the capability and resources to make a disastrously high number of nuclear weapons.

The Iranian government exports regional hegemony because of its oil wealth. High oil prices, while crippling our economy, give the Iranian government billions of dollars in revenue. This government has employed its vast resources to stay in power and build up its military arsenal.

Yet we, loyal taxpayers of the Volunteer state, actually have a say in the matter. Passing an Iranian divestment bill, which prohibits investment in companies that profit Iran, is the

best way to solve the problem. Tennessee wouldn't be the first state to pass such a measure. In 2007, Florida passed the PFIA, or Protecting Florida's Investments Act. This bill requires the state to publish a "Scrutinized Companies" list of companies that invest in Iran and Sudan, and the state government is not allowed to invest money in those companies.

Tennessee can and should pass a law just like it. Contacting lawmakers on the state level is a great start. Write letters, email, and call your state representatives advocating a divestment law. I further plead that MBA itself voice concern over the issue to Representative Gary Odom and Senator Douglas Henry. Grassroots actions like these, in addition to being the cornerstone of the American legislative progress, are an effective way of promoting a divestment bill in the Tennessee state legislature.

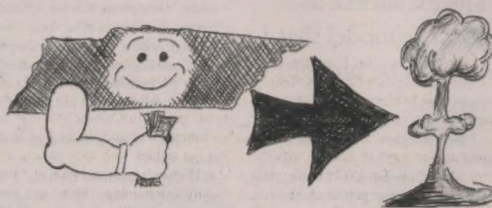


illustration courtesy of Dalton Fouts

Use of park trails contested

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hiking trails, drives, entrances, bridges, retaining walls, and even the steeplechase course. Eventually, though, around the early eighties, these trails became exclusive bride paths.

Today, a great conflict has evolved out of this limitation. Despite the rules of the parks, many runners frequent the horse trails, some even claiming them to be the best trail-running destinations in Nashville due to their moderate grade and lengthy loops of up to nine miles. While there are many hiking trails reserved for those on foot, their steepness provides runners and joggers with brutal hills—sometimes crossing the threshold into the category of "climb"—and precarious downhill which, coupled with some sneaky roots, can lead to a world of hurt. I can personally attest to this.

Yet, due to the presence of very heavy and strong beasts of burden on the horse trails, not to mention the prohibition of all non-equestrian types, runners here don't have safety (or legality) on their side either. I have one source, who wishes to remain unnamed,

who has ridden the trails for thirty-five years now. She'll take her horse out anytime from 8:30am to 3:00pm about three times a week while her kids are at school. And in her thirty-five years, the only negative experiences she's had were with runners, particularly packs of them.

She explained to me that horses are flight animals. So, naturally, when the creature feels footfalls closing in on it, it tenses up to prepare for a sudden bolt if necessary. Unfortunately, there is no magic signal runners can send to these 1000-pound steeds to reassure them they mean no harm, especially when teams of twenty to thirty athletes suddenly come around a corner into their line of sight. And, if these animals dart off into the woods, so do the people secured to their backs. Needless to say, this is a dangerous scenario; she told me of one such instance when an eight-year-old boy was taken swiftly into the woods by a spooked pony which was at all other times completely docile.

Though the chances of such an encounter may seem slim, it truly would be horrible for a runner to be responsible for the serious injury of a horseback rider, especially when they aren't permitted to be there in the

first place. Yet, despite all the inherent risk, people continue to run these trails, even with park police patrolling them and issuing tickets. At first glance, this persistence may be conceived as defiance. But due to the longevity of this issue, there is clearly something more to it. And, if the tradition has survived this long, what's going to stop it now?

What about a concession? I know that the discussion of finding a middle ground has been visited and revisited, but perhaps if a negotiation were to finally be made, the animosity between runners and horseback riders that has existed for too long could be dealt with. How about the possibility of time allotments rather than simply opening up the trails in general to those on foot? Could both groups then coexist legally without ever having to run into each other? Even if the runners had a very small window in which only they were able to use the trails, surely they would jump at the opportunity considering the risks they take now.

I am going to do some more investigating in and around the parks and, hopefully, talk with park police, stable managers, and anonymous runners who have set foot on the trails with hopes of getting closer to a compromise.

'China 6' eat and talk their way through the East

By Joshua Liang
Staff Traveler

June 30, 2009 - It was a normal summer morning. The sky was blue, the clouds were white, and the sun was beaming. Who would have guessed that such an ordinary day would be the start of an extraordinary journey?

As each member of the "China 6" (Matt Bracy, Will Campbell, Mac Hudson, Joshua Liang, Austin Locke, and Daniel White) and the three teachers (Dr. Dickens, Ms. Li, and Mr. Womack) arrived at the Nashville airport, feelings of excitement and anxiety visibly grew. I suppose a little bit of fear and doubt also crept up in some people. The majority of the group had never been so far away from home before.

After we said our goodbyes and passed through security, I sat down with a couple of the guys and asked them what their expectations for China were. Matt Bracy thought he was being witty when he said he was expecting to eat "a lot of rice." Daniel White, on the other hand, was expecting to eat "DUMPLINGS! ... but not dogs." It seemed that we were traveling half-way around the globe just to eat the food.

Our journey took us first from Nashville to Minneapolis. From there, we flew to Tokyo, and then finally to Beijing. The flight from Minneapolis to Tokyo was perhaps the thirteen longest hours of our lives; however, we all seemed to devise our own unique ways of dealing with the torturous boredom. Dr. Dickens played a few extremely intense games of Sudoku, while Daniel White passed the time by (it seemed) constantly urinating. He later told me that he "peed... like five times." Upon arrival, Matt Bracy walked up to me with thick rings of fatigue around his eyes and muttered that he had "just played fourteen straight hours of Pokemon." Whatever our means of passing the time were, we were all extremely relieved to land in Tokyo, because it meant that we were nearing our

final destination.

As we descended through Beijing's hazy skyline, we were informed that we were all to have our temperatures taken (because of the global pandemic "Swine Flu"). Interestingly, Will chose this moment as the perfect time to have a major nose-bleed, one that would not stop flowing. We all feared for his life as the quarantine officials with thermometers passed by us. A huge sigh of relief ensued as the officials passed by with no trouble.

We were greeted in Beijing by several of our new Chinese teachers, who were extremely genial and hospitable. We all piled into a medium-sized bus and set off to the PonsVista Facility, which was where we stayed. By the time we arrived at our house, it was nearing midnight, and we were all vehemently tired. Upon seeing our soft bunk beds with plush comforters, we collapsed on them and fell into deep sleep knowing that the real adventure was just beginning.

Our stay in Beijing was one of the most enjoyable eight days of our lives. Our days always started with a hearty Chinese breakfast (Ramen noodles!) and a 3-hour Chinese class before we finally set out to go sightseeing.

The Chinese classes offered a plethora of entertaining moments. Watching Daniel White attempt to pronounce the word "green" in Chinese was priceless, as his tongue was seemingly tied in a knot that got tighter with each failing attempt. Mac Hudson's pronunciation of "five" was equally entertaining. "Five" in Chinese is supposed to be "Wu," pronounced "W-oo" with a dipping sound. Instead, Mr. Hudson pronounced it as if he were an Orc charging into a hopeless battle in "Lord of the Rings." That is to say, that a discombobulated half-scream of pain was emitted when he pronounced the word.

Some of the most fun and entertaining moments occurred during our afternoons sightseeing in Beijing. Our experience at the

Forbidden City was perhaps overshadowed by multiple attempts to pickpocket Daniel. Several times, people would brush up past him and blatantly reach for his pockets. Luckily for him, I always came to the rescue and repelled them before they could do any damage. Another fascinating experience was the Beijing Planning Museum, which featured a scaled-down model of Beijing. The model included practically every street, building, and tree in the city. Other notable places included The Summer Palace, The Temple of Heaven, and the Olympic sites.

The most thrilling adventure was undoubtedly the Great Wall. We set out early in the morning to make the 2-hour trip there. At first, morale was fairly low as we found out that we first had to climb up to the Great Wall before we could actually climb the Great Wall. Matt was extremely excited about "sweating through [his] clothes." So, after an hour of climbing up steps in the blazing heat, we finally made it up to the actual wall, and the sight that ensued was jaw-droppingly beautiful. We were surrounded by a cornucopia of gargantuan mountains completely covered with lush, verdant trees. I believe we all took a moment of silence just to let the view soak in completely.

After taking many pictures and hiking many miles along the wall, we began our journey back down. The journey down the Great Wall was perhaps the most exhilarating part of the experience. We slid down to the bottom in what they called "toboggans." This was basically a water slide, except there was no water, and we were on wheels. Daniel provided yet another priceless moment as he screamed several (hundred) expletives at the beginning of our descent because he apparently never learned how to use the hand brake to slow down. Matt and I were right in front of him. We thought we were going to die. Nevertheless, we all had a great time, and the panda hat I bought at the bottom was just icing on the cake.



Joshua Liang sports his panda hat at the base of the Great Wall.

We all left Beijing with our stomachs full and our appetites for adventure satisfied. After an overnight train-ride to Suzhou, expectations for this new city were high; however, the weather there proved to be, uhmm, dreadful. Suzhou was extremely hot and humid. "I hate this place," Matt exclaimed as we walked through one of the many gardens we visited there. These rising, malicious feelings towards this mainly undeveloped city were quickly quashed after we all got 90-minute foot massages. "I have experienced nothing comparable," Mr. Womack stated afterwards. Meanwhile, Matt was more impressed by his masseuse than by his foot massage. "My girl was so hot," he said with the dreamy eyes of one who is infatuated.

A 2-hour road trip eventually led us to Shanghai. The city itself was the most impressive thing I have ever seen in my life. When we reached the top of The Oriental Pearl Tower, which is the tallest tower in Asia and the third tallest in all the world, the view of the city that my gaze traversed was incredible. Shanghai is equal to downtown Nashville multiplied by at least 10,000.

On our last night in Shanghai (and in China), we were treated to an extremely copious and exotic meal. The main dish was called "Boiled Duck Blood and Ox Tripe in Chili Oil," and it included frog legs, pork stomach, shark-fin, abalone, and duck blood. Daniel claimed the blood as one of his favorite dishes, but he was definitely lying. Matt, on the other hand, did not touch a single piece of food as he was suffering from multiple days of bad bowel movements and a major migraine.

Come to think of it, every one of us was probably tired and ready to get home at that point. It had been an amazing journey, but two weeks of constant lessons and travel had worn us out.

As our airplane touched down onto the familiar grounds of Nashville, Tennessee, we looked at each other and smiled. During those two weeks in the East, we had encountered a foreign culture and had learned its ways. We had been to many interesting places and had learned about China's deep-rooted history. We had learned a new language and had eaten incredible food. We had just had the journey of our lives. But it sure was nice to finally be home... at least for the time being... until the next great adventure.



Mr. Womack, Dr. Dickens, Ms. Li and the "China 6" begin their Eastern adventure. The group not only saw the sites in and around Beijing but also studied the Chinese language and culture.

MBA students anglicise at Winchester

By Thomas Moore
Staff Writer

This summer MBA sent three students across the Pond, as Matt Bellet, George Curtis, and I flew to England to participate in the annual exchange program with Winchester College. After a rather lengthy bout of aeronautics, we arrived in London, avoided customs by hiding on the luggage ramp, and hitched a ride to the old Roman town of Winchester in the southeastern county of Hampshire. While our entrance may not have been quite that dramatic, our stay certainly met and, in most cases, exceeded our expectations.

Upon our arrival, we had to part into separate boarding houses. Matt found himself placed in a small cupboard in the oldest house, Furley's, while George camped out at Beloe's. Winchester clearly knew I was coming, for they gave me rooms at Hopper's, the most commodious accommodation this side of Windsor Castle. England being only a small island, space is at a premium, and most rooms in London are about the size of your grandmother's broom-closet. However, it took ten minutes to walk from one corner of my room to the next, and I even had a button with which to call for tea. Of course, I had a long trek to class each morning among columns and cloisters older than America, but it was hardly unpleasant. On the whole, we all received very warm welcomes.

We were thrown into full academic and social rigour on our first full day. George took Maths and French, Matt studied History and Latin, while I read Latin and German, and all three of us were in an English class. Matt later picked up a Philosophy and



Thomas Moore walks among the historic buildings of Winchester College.

Theology class, so he could better learn how to argue with atheists. In addition, every student at the college had to take a rather idiosyncratic course called 'Div'. In this class students, following the Socratic method, are encouraged to talk about different topics each day. For example, in my Div class we learned tai chi, meditation, and the art of cathedral-building.

I found all of my classes extremely interesting, with the teachers engaging and enthusiastic. I was particularly interested to observe the English method of instruction and academic structure in relationship to our own. I was surprised to find the classes, teachers, and students very much like our own academic community here at MBA. There were, of course, several of those quirky features that one encounters only in England.

I also think that it is a great testament to the internationally scholastic environment provided by teachers here at MBA that, for the most part, George, Matt and I found ourselves at the tops of our classes. Even in the highest set of Latin, Matt and I frequently achieved top marks. There was little I encountered at Winchester that I had not already learned in an MBA class, and I came away with the great confidence that MBA was competing at the highest academic level worldwide. I think it is important that our student body understands the great privilege and prestige provided to them at our institution.

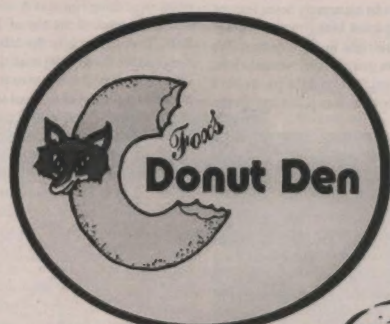
I would be remiss if I did not mention a few aspects of extracurricular life at Winchester. There were, of course, many opportunities for sport. Matt and George often found time to train for cross-country

by running through the surrounding English countryside, an idyllic setting to say the least. One Saturday afternoon, I dragged Matt to the river, where we practised some rowing. While Matt performed admirably his first time out, I did not fail to capsize my boat within five minutes, and it devolved into a rather soggy affair.

There is a particular feature of Winchester social life that, while peculiar, should intrigue linguists. Winchester has an entire language of its own called 'Notions' which only students and teachers understand. While most phrases have died out over the years, several key terms still hang on. The most popular word is 'goive', used to express general disinterest. Another favourite is 'meats', which is essentially an expression of *Schadenfreude*. They also call their homework 'toytine', an expression which seems strangely misleading.

During my time in England, I was constantly surrounded by the most hospitable people one could hope to meet. During *Exeat*, a time when students are permitted to leave the school for the weekend, a family kindly offered to take me to their home. The next afternoon I was treated to a proper English cream tea while picnicking among the Avebury Stones. Certainly my raging Anglophilia was well-stoked during my visit.

My experience at Winchester was enlightening, and, what with poetry recitations, plays in London, and Latin tests, I had plenty to keep me occupied. It was a time which I will certainly not regret, and I encourage our juniors to consider MBA's extensive exchange opportunities this coming year.



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Seniors enjoy last high school summer

By Will Henry
Entertainment Editor

In the summer before senior year, the Class of 2010 has been extremely busy. From vacations to sports, the seniors have filled up their time with noble activities.

For instance, **Patrick Clarke** allegedly killed a man. This rumor has yet to be confirmed.

George Curtis discovered his true calling and now will be a valuable member of the Cross Country team.

Steven Burbank, aka Cosmotose, has uploaded a free EP to <http://cosmotose.bandcamp.com>. Although he claims it to be a rough EP, I certainly give it my approval.

Daniel Smith went to Sewanee Young Writer's Conference where he wrote some poems. Also, by reciting original verses to a waitress, he is now the Bard of Mellow Mushroom. I hope he tipped her well.

Dalton Fouts was rocked by the culture of Thailand in a "Fight Club"-esque scrap in Sylvan Park.

Thompson Barr worked in a hospital in Kenya and performed lots of surgeries. He will now only respond to "Dr. Barr."

Joshua Liang just visited MIT, and all he saw were "Asians, glasses, and ugly girls." This update should definitely come as a newflash to us all.

Don't let **Campbell Haynes** fool you. His "I am travelling around the world" ploy is just meant to divert you from the truth: he went to two separate debate camps throughout the course of the summer.

Pat "I now have a girlfriend and I am therefore superior to you" Killian, Seth Akers-Campbell, and Richard Wall attended a "redneck pool party" with some lady-friends. They filled up the bed of a truck with water and proceeded to use it as a pool. **Jordan Herring**, if that doesn't excite you, I'm not sure what will.

Thomas Moore is writing a one-act play. Cool beans.

Lewis Armistead, **Ben Sutter**, and **Daniel Todd** went on exchange to Lindisfarne College in New Zealand. They all came back in one piece and, yes, the school is still standing.

Austin Locke, **Matt Bracy**, **Joshua Liang**, **Mac Hudson**, **Will Campbell**, and **Daniel White** ventured to China for two weeks this summer. The group ran into **Jichao Deng**, who has been living in China for the course of the summer. Also, Daniel party-boyed a random man on the subway.



Seth relaxes in his oh so classy mobile pool. (He DOES have shorts on.)

Later, he was mistaken for Shaq by a group of Chinese children and proceeded to sign autographs and take pictures with them. I'm not sure whom that reflects poorly on.

Mitchell Lukens went on yet another "Dino-Dig" this year. No one seemed to heed his advice, so he is again insisting

that "everyone needs to do one sometime in his life." Okay, Mitch!

In other news, **Alex Snow** has begun shaving. **Tee Griscorn** is doing centerfolds. **John Lowe's** hair is still glistens in the sun, and **Jackson Roberts** is feeling blue...again.

Miley Cyrus inspires juniors Freshmen

By Andrew Powell
News Editor

The junior class has steadily become less and less responsive to emails, but I have found a solution: Miley Cyrus. Better than Washington, Hamilton, or even Jackson, Miley grabs the attention and interests of my noble countrymen. For when a signed picture of Miley was offered to the most intriguing response – false or the rare non-false – a record setting number of gentlemen submitted their tuppence, a 600% increase from the last issue. Let's see what the fellas came up with:

First things first, but not necessarily in that order, **Harrison Luna** went on a skydiving trip over a number of famous landmarks, such as the Grand Canyon,

Niagara Falls, Mt. Rushmore, the moon, and **Walton Macey**. Speaking of famous landmarks, **Michael Peters** is now running 60 miles per week; meanwhile, **Matthew Johnson** is hanging out with Yung Buck. Okaayyy.

Partha "Martha with a P" Reddy went to Mabubnigah, India and got his leg bitten off by a tiger. **Coach Pruitt** cried, as the XC season appeared to be done for, until Partha stitched it back on with his Trion Z. Partha is now even faster than before, Michael Peters is intimidated, and Walton "bellyflop" Macey has yet to be at practice.

A wise man once said, "The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese."

John Wyzul, MBA's only suspected terrorist, still has hair on his legs despite a deep desire to shave them. He has also moved up to number two in the Van East rankings, who btdubs, doesn't not play football. You better believe it.

Paul Van Pernis went to Cuba, but told me to add details to that fact to make it more interesting. I didn't. On the other hand, (which has different fingers,) **Phillip Daniele** went camping in Siberia and led a revolution against cold weather. He failed.

Speaking of failures, **Jack Keller**, who claims this is actually true, saw someone accidentally shoot a firework at their beach home and light it on fire. Broom roasted. In wisdom teeth related news, **Patrick Duffy** freaked out his doctor. See him for further details.

"How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?"

Collin Brannon spent his summer enjoying the atmosphere of MBA with his three summer school class load. Overall, he says his summer was "bumpin'."

Will Granberry single-handedly

destroyed a front porch and a roof while on a mission trip. He then tore away what remained by tying the main structure of the house to the back of a truck. Skeadoosh.

Jack Hallemann, who still believes the Miley pic is too good to be true, spent his summer drinking a gallon of milk for fun, training his cute as can be dog Trixie to be a dogfighter (watch out, Mike), and averaging 2-3 a day as a lifeguard. Only one of those things is true...bet you can't guess which one!

Moving on. **Frank "the tank" Gaglione** spent three weeks in France on exchange where he lived with a French family and got pushed off the Eiffel Tower (which he claims was the scariest experience of his life). I wonder if anything happens if you get scared half to death, twice. Anyway, Frank saw Harry Potter before it came out in America because of the time difference, and accidentally sat through a funeral in Italy without realizing it until he found out that Volvo makes a hearse. Not everyday something like that happens to you, am I right, **Chunsoo**?

Harrison Matthews got chased and yelled at by a homeless man in Paris. All in a days work. **Ian Sharbel** climbed mountains in the New Mexico desert and sledged down the other side over a 100-mile 10-day trek. And **Woldn** successfully succeeded in watching all 8 seasons of Gilmore Girls in a one-and-a-half-week period.

Michael Peters, the only man dedicated enough to both reply twice for one column and be our only six-articles-in-a-row contributor, used his summer to get better every single day. Only 79 days till state! We won't let those jokers from Ensworld running 90 miles-a week mess with our championship. Or Papa Ron. Let's just say Papa Ron ended with one less fork than he started with. Roll Red.

start anew

By McLean Hudson
Staff Writer

As we return to school after the ever too short summer break, the class of '13 and its newly elected Honor Council representatives **Will McFadden** and **George Swenson** will welcome twenty-five new students into their midst. With old schools ranging from just down the street at Harding to New Mexico, our new classmates are jumping into life on the Hill.

Matt McPherson will join the all-star group of year-round freshmen swimmers, which brought home the state championship in both years of the junior school, while riflery gained no new participants.

A much larger number of new students has joined the freshmen football team. **Tom Dodson**, **Morris Eguakam**, **Terrence Harris**, **Barry Goldsmith**, **Connor Griffin**, **Gary Jackson**, **Jack Kinloch**, **Connor Murphy** and **McCall Ship** will all make a huge difference in their debut year with the Big Red.

The cross country team will be low on freshmen this year, but not for lack of new students. Last year, the unstoppable force that was microbe cross country dominated every meet, easily winning the championship. Of the top eighth grade runners however, only **Alex Smith** is still participating. Even **Tate Ramsden**, the record-setting distance runner, has dropped out to focus on swimming.

Good luck to all our students, new and returning, as we begin life on the other side of campus: high school. And don't be afraid of those high school teachers!



Jack cuddles with his reportedly ruthless dogfighter, Trixie.

Sophmores spend summer actively

By Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

After three months of catching up on sleep, going places, making money, doing service, or just lying around, none of us is ready for school yet, but...it's here now. At least we have some things to look forward to, like football season, homecoming, school lunches, meeting with friends again, and who knows what else will happen this year. Anyway, here are some of the coolest things the sophmores did this summer.

Alex Hagar did an unpaid medical internship with Dr. Standard (Logan's father) in neuroscience, watching "people drill holes in a guy's back and poke at his brain." Though he never got excessively nauseous while watching brain surgery, he did make the observation that a brain looks like "yellow goo with blood on top." He also had practice diagnosing diseases alongside Dr. Standard and meeting the patients. "Definitely awesome. I learned a lot," he says.

After **Paul Brazil** hosted Luca Kerstner, the German exchange student and temporary campus celebrity, Luca invited him back to Germany. Paul lived with Luca for three weeks, visiting school, doing touristy things, and "just chillaxing," in addition to practicing his German linguistics.

Palmer Campbell, in addition to "playing a whole lot of tennis," traveled to South Africa with an all-girls school from Baltimore (why?), where he learned about the country's history and helped in orphanages. He hopes to start a fund for the children in these orphanages once he comes

back to MBA.

Tim Bulso went whitewater rafting on the Ocoee River, then traveled down to Fort Benning, GA with **Connor Yakushi** and myself for a sniper camp with the MBA rifle team.

Hunter Woolwine bought a katana, otherwise known as his "bob'em sword," and says he has been training day and night to slay the dragon in his basement. Good luck with that, Hunter!

Rett Hooper traveled up to Alas-

ka, where he went on a weeklong cruise and visited Mt. McKinley. He saw moose, whales, puffins, and sea lions, and enjoyed twenty hours of sunlight a day.

Matt Anderson went on a trip to the Rockies, staying in a five-star hotel and exploring the national parks. He says the best part was whitewater rafting on the Arkansas river, "waaaay better than the Ocoee."

Rob Edwards, **Aaron Ardisson** and **Connor Yakushi** went hiking in the

Smoky Mountains, around Chimney Tops and Clingman's Dome. Rob also went on a mission trip to Kentucky to build houses for the homeless, along with too many sophmores to list here. Great job guys, you know who you are!

What did *I* do this summer? Well, I went on roller coasters, looked at fish, mowed lawns, and, at the time of this writing, still have two more books to read for summer reading. Oh well, have a great school year!



Sophmores Aaron Ardisson and Rob Edwards take a walk in the woods as part of the MBA expedition to the Smokys.

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The Half-Blood Prince is half-good

By Alvin Kim
Entertainment Editor

Harry hasn't quite reached the end yet, and the movie's overbearing fatigue shows. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is the sixth installment in what is now an eight-part series from Warner Brothers, whose reluctance to wrap up the enterprise has become endearingly familiar and understandable, considering its \$4.5 billion in international box office sales.

David Yates, who directed *Order of the Phoenix* in 2007 and will steer the Potter films to the finish line, attempts to manipulate the book's natural flow between dark events and casual events, yet he fails to bring any finesse to the movie's painfully formulaic plot flow.

While Yates successfully depicts chaos in the "muggle" world in a captivating opening, he moves between scenes with the delicacy and subtlety of a crazed Microbe at cookie break. After portraying Snape's "unbreakable vow," the director cuts to the magically enticing store of the twin Weasleys (filled with brilliant special effects) until the scene goes black so that Harry finds himself eavesdropping on Draco Malfoy, superbly played by Tom Felton. With each supposed comic relief scene, the viewer is forced to endure sudden spurts of artificial

high school love, spewed forth immediately after attacks made by the "Death Eaters."

Despite the sporadic nature of the film's scenes, *The Half-Blood Prince* seems to be a factory of splendid contemporary British acting. The enterprise's three main actors—Emma Watson as Hermione Granger, Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley and Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter—seem more comfortable with their parts than ever before, but most noticeable are the performances by an impressive supporting cast. Felton manages to bring a vulnerable humanity to the tormented Draco Malfoy, while the great Alan Rickman drops lines like "How great it must be to be the chosen one" with such colossal and monotonic disdain that ancient/medieval history teachers would cringe. Combined with the skills of veterans Helena Bonham Carter, as a crazy and cackling Bellatrix Lestrange, and Michael Gambon as the powerful Albus Dumbledore, the cast makes the magical world of *Harry Potter* riveting and convincing.

Yates has less plot summary to cover and a stellar cast in his upcoming two installments, giving him ample room to construct a coherent story. Perhaps he can finally sweep the audience away without the interruptions of audience manipulation.

2 ½ of 4 stars

Taming of the Shrew comes to the park

By Tommy Harless
Staff Singer/Actor

Next weekend, at the Centennial Park band shell, a group of young actors will be performing a free production of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Yes, it's that time of year again, and Shakespeare in the Park is back! Despite severe funding cuts (including the loss of a 50,000 dollar grant to the Tennessee Shakespeare festival), last weekend still had a massive turnout for the apprentice company's production of *Taming*, which features Ben Reed as Petruchio and Caitlin Kelly as Katherine (Kate). Ben does a fantastic job portraying the young Petruchio as a lively, high energy individual, and his performance drives the show. The chemistry between Caitlin and Ben is fantastic, as they both struggle with their emotions as interference to their original objectives.

The play is set in the time period from 1968-1972 (reproducing the production two years ago at Harpeth Hall—due to budget cuts, not lack of originality), which provides for beautiful costume and set design, along with period music.

Although colorful and spunky, the idea never seems to overtake the actual play and definitely adds to the life of the show at many points. A lot of the comedy comes

from the smaller characters surrounding the romantic leads (Petruchio-Kate, Lucentio-Bianca), as servants are forced to scheme with their masters to help reach outlandish ends.

Lee Daniels, who plays Tranio (Lucentio's servant), does a fantastic job using his role both to provide comedic effect and move along the plot. Other noted actors include Ricardo Beaird (Hortensio), J.R. Knowles (Gremio), and Haley Oldham (Biondello).

All in all, this production is very funny and is an excellent opportunity to enjoy some laidback, free Shakespeare. After this weekend, Shakespeare in the Park continues with a three-week run of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*, a comedic piece featuring the three adult actors seen in *Taming*. Admission is free, but please attend and give a small donation. In this poor economy the Nashville Shakespeare Company threatens to go under, which would end over two decades of free, high-quality entertainment for the public. If we don't donate, this might be Shakespeare's last summer in the park.

For more information on the show, or if you want to help, contact Tommy Harless.

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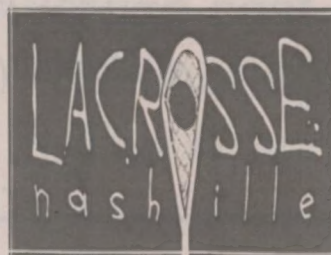
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You can't resist the Flaming Lips

By Will Henry
Entertainment Editor

The Flaming Lips have always had a cult following. They've been playing since the 80's, and their style has significantly changed over the years, but one thing has stayed the same—their fans love them. As a member of this cult, I feel it is my duty to spread my knowledge of the Lips.

As many of you know, the Flaming Lips headlined Vanderbilt's annual concert *Rites of Spring*. I was unable to go due to a prom conflict, but from Charles Herron, John Michael McGinn, and a few others, I heard that the concert was epic.

Before I continue, I feel that some background knowledge on the band is necessary. The band formed in the early 80's and recorded on some indie labels. They continued playing and recording their acid-punk-rock style. They finally had a big hit in 1993 with the song *She Don't Use Jelly* which was released on the album "Transmissions from the Satellite Heart" on the Warner Bros. Label. The members of the band at that time were Wayne Coyne (lead singer), Steven Drozd, Michael Ivins, and Ronald Jones.

In 1995, Ronald Jones left the band because of his growing paranoia about Drozd's heroin use. This departure caused the band to change their style drastically. In 1997, they released a very experimental album "Zaireeka". It was a four-disc album, where all four albums were supposed to be played simultaneously. A major pitfall for

this album, though, was that the majority of people do not have four separate music players. Nevertheless, by 1999 they really came into their own with the album "The Soft Bulletin". Their new style could now be described as experimental, a sort of psychedellic, electronic, light rock.

In 2001, the group released "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots", a brilliant concept album, to great critical acclaim, and then, in 2006, they released "At War With the Mystics". Both of these albums further developed their new style of play, a genre

which was nearly all their own.

Along with their new style came a new brilliance to their live shows. While I was in Melbourne, Australia on exchange this summer, I managed to get my hands on two tickets to their show at Festival Hall. From Wayne Coyne running over the audience in a human-sized hamsterball to girls dressed up like sexy geckos and snow bunnies, from 25-foot tall blow up caterpillars to incredible visuals and bursts of confetti and light, this show was the most incredible event I have ever witnessed.

I highly recommend that everyone check out the Flaming Lips. They are as commercially accessible as MGMT. Listen to the songs *Do You Realize??*, *The W.A.N.D.*, *Fight Test*, *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots pt. 1*, *Vein of Stars*, *Race for the Prize*, and *She Don't Use Jelly*. Then decide from there if the Flaming Lips are for you.

They just released a new EP with three songs from their upcoming album "Embryonic". This double album is set to hit the stores this fall. So, get excited!



Confetti rains at a Flaming Lips concert in Melbourne. In recent years, the band's live shows have drawn as much acclaim as its recorded music.



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


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Untested QB has teammates' confidence

By Alex Apple
Sports Editor

Spencer Wise's three-year tenure as starting quarterback for the Big Red is over. In comes senior Luke Colbert. Though he is a senior, he has never started a game, and few people can say for sure what they expect.

While Colbert is a better passer than Wise, Wise was a great leader in the huddle and on the sidelines, and it remains to be seen if Colbert can step up and fill his shoes as a leader. Spencer Wise's experience and leadership in the huddle will be missed.

Colbert will have good hands on the end to receive the passes. Both William Tanner and Holden Mobley had strong junior seasons and bring great experience. Tanner, who led Division II-AA in both receptions and touchdowns last season, said of this year's passing game, "With the experience that we have at wide receiver with Holden and me and with a good QB in Luke, I think we may throw it more this year."

"Also, last year we didn't expect our passing game to be as strong, but this year we know we can throw, and we don't think anyone can stop us on the perimeter."

It seems likely that they will throw it more this year, since last year's starting running backs Patrick Crum and Dent Schillinglaw are also gone.

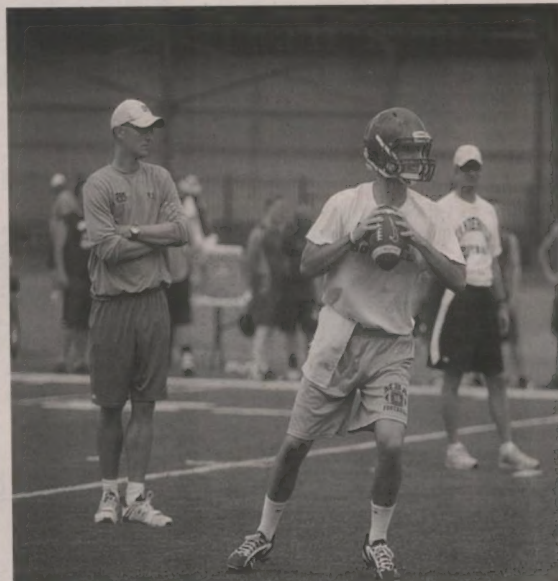
The coaching staff is also optimistic about the passing game, but how Colbert will react under the lights on a Friday night remains to be seen. Last season Colbert threw just 24 passes, completing 16 for 192 yards and 3 touchdowns. He also ran for one touchdown.

In another vote of confidence from a teammate, senior Tee Griscom explained, "Colbert is a great athlete with potential, as many people have said, but he has been practicing a lot and has become a leader in the huddle. We all have a desire to win the state. Instead of defending our state title as we tried to do last year, this year we are out to get that title back."

When MBA scrimmaged Wilson Central earlier this month, Colbert and Tanner hooked up numerous times, including for two touchdowns. The team threw often and threw much more often than they have in past years. Preseason scrimmages have helped Luke and his receivers develop a good chemistry together.

Colbert said of his summer, "Personally I have had a pretty good summer. I have been gettin' timing down with receivers and just getting on the same page with everyone."

MBA's success this season will be directly related to Colbert's leadership abilities and his ability to throw the ball. Roll Red.



QB Luke Colbert gets in some practice time at Vanderbilt, working hard to overcome a lack of experience.

CC sticks to strategy, looks for new talent

By Kyle Brantley
Sports Editor

There are only two things that could possibly stop MBA in its quest for its first state championship in cross country since 1998: Ensworth and milk. An old cross country camp tradition was brought back this year, as four team members (Partha Ready, Jack Halleman, Adam Hobbs, and Quinton Burks) participated in the Golden Gallon Challenge. The four participants attempted to drink a gallon of milk within an hour ... but to no avail. Jack Halleman was proclaimed the winner, even though no one actually finished the whole gallon.

Controversy swirled around the event at first because Partha downed his gallon in a hurry; but, sources would soon later reveal, he had poured out half of his gallon in the bathroom before the big event.

The other obstacle for the MBA runners, Ensworth, is taking a daring approach to their training this year. As David Dalton, senior runner and leader of the CC team, so aptly put it: "It's going to be the battle of the training philosophies this year."

Ensworth has been running twice a day in the summer, trying to build up core muscle and a big base in order to peak at the State meet. MBA, on the other hand, is taking a more conservative approach by

sticking with Pruitt's proven game plan of running once a day and around 35-50 miles a week. Coach Pruitt has always said that the Big Red hasn't lost the Metro Championship meet since 1903, so why would the Big Red want to change a proven strategy? Ensworth will be prone to injuries this year, because running double digit miles a day in the summer can add up. So, only time will tell which strategy eventually prevails.

The rising star to watch out for on this year's team has to be Daniel "DP" Peters. He is "quite the ball of energy," according to one Mister Matt Bellett.

Of course, his older brother, Michael Peters, is the life and soul of the team.

Both brothers have been working non-stop this summer to be key contributors for the varsity team-of-seven come this fall. Seniors David Dalton, Matt Bellett, and Campbell Kinnard will be vying for three of those seven spots as well. The juniors will be represented by Michael Peters, Ryan Hill, and Hayes McCord, and the four star runners of the sophomore class (Daniel Peters, Daniel Mace, Da-

vid Arteaga, and Myles Anderson) have already been dubbed the "Fab Four." A surprise could emerge in the senior class as well, with rookie runner George Curtis, who plans to make significant contributions to the team.

Undoubtedly, the competition will be stiff for the Big Red runners to make the starting seven, but the unit will push each other as a whole toward one common goal. If the Big Red does succeed in winning the state championship, they hope to compete in Regionals and ultimately have the opportunity to go to Nike Nationals in Oregon.

The MBA team has already enjoyed/endured the ecstasies and agonies of camp this year, which is held annually at St. Mary's Conference Center in Sevanee. A highlight of the camp included a surprise visit by Athletic Director Coach O'Neal, who wanted to emphasize his support of the CC team and let all the runners know that the cross country team is equal in his eyes to the football team, even though the football team does get just a little bit more attention. Harpeth Hall runners were also present at St. Mary's, but, according to Matt Bellett, "The only real interaction between HH and MBA was David Dalton and Anna Spickard sitting at the same lunch table."

The CC team has come close many times, but fallen just short of the state title. Last year, heat and injuries greatly affected two senior Big Red runners, which cost the team the race. This year, the Big Red doesn't want to make any excuses. David Dalton, however, would like to make sure that Andrew Phillips and Austin Locke save him a burger for after the state championship this year, an act they failed to do last season.



The cross country team will look to talents such as Michael Peters, Daniel Peters, and David Dalton as it relies on players in all grade levels during the upcoming season.

